

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Serial No.** : 09/883,467 **Confirmation No.** : 2685  
**Applicant(s)** : Tsutomu TAKAYAMA  
**Filed** : June 14, 2001  
**Title** : SIGNAL PROCESSING METHOD, SIGNAL PROCESSING APPARATUS,  
AND IMAGE READING APPARATUS

**Art Unit** : 2624  
**Examiner** : Patrick L. Edwards

**Docket No.** : 1232-4724  
**Customer No.** : 27123

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND SUBMISSION**  
**PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.114**

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This paper is submitted along with a Request for Continued Examination and constitutes a submission under Rule 114. A final Office Action dated July 6, 2006 had been pending. A petition for a 1 month extension of time is enclosed herewith. This paper is set forth as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 26 of this paper.